

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A universal vaccine for treating tumors of any origin, comprising:
5 at least one telomerase reverse transcriptase(hTERT) peptide in an
 amount effective for initiating and enhancing a cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL)
 response against mammalian cancer cells; and
 a physiologically acceptable carrier.
2. The vaccine according to claim 1, wherein the telomerase peptide is modified
10 to enhance binding to a major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecule.
3. The vaccine according to claim 2, wherein the MHC molecule is a Class I.
4. The vaccine according to claim 3, wherein the MHC molecule is a human
leucocyte antigen (HLA).
5. The vaccine according to claim 4, wherein the MHC molecule is HLA-2.
- 15 6. The vaccine according to claim 1, wherein the hTERT peptide is a human
telomerase reverse transcriptase peptide.
7. The vaccine according to claim 6, wherein the peptide is from about 7 to about
15 amino acid residues in length.
8. The vaccine according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is effective alone.
- 20 9. The vaccine according to claim 1, wherein the peptide is effective in
combination with other peptides.

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